

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 2029

FODAG

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNWFC, FAO

SUBJECT: WORLD FOOD COUNCIL ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HANNAH'S
BRIEFING OF GENEVA GROUP IN ROME ON FOLLOW-UP TO
WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE

SUMMARY - DR. HANNAH HAD WIDE-RANGING DISCUSSION FEBRUARY 10
WITH GENEVA GROUP IN ROME ON FOLLOW-UP TO WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE.
THEY HAD SPIRITED DIALOGUE ON ISSUE OF RANK OF HEAD OF WORLD
FOOD COUNCIL AND ON CONSULTATIVE MEETING OF WORLD FOOD COUNCIL
MEMBER COUNTRIES IN NEW YORK FEBRUARY 24. HE REPORTED THAT
FIRST SESSION OF WORLD FOOD COUNCIL CANNOT NOW BE HELD BEFORE
JUNE 23. HE ALSO EXPRESSED VIEW THAT PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL
FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT DEPENDS ON DIALOGUE BETWEEN
OPEC AND DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, AND OPEC INITIATIVES.

END SUMMARY.

1. WORLD FOOD COUNCIL ACTING EXECUTIVE-DIRECTOR JOHN HANNAH
EXPRESSED DESIRE FEBRUARY 6 TO BRIEF GROUP B REPRESENTATIVES
ON INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR WORLD FOOD COUNCIL, AND
IN ABSENCE OF GROUP B IT WAS ARRANGED THAT HE MEET WITH
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GENEVA GROUP IN ROME IN FAO BUILDING WHERE HIS OFFICE IS
PRESENTLY LOCATED AT 4 PM FEBRUARY 10. AT HIS REQUEST, NORWAY

AND DENMARK WERE INVITED AS OBSERVERS, AS THEY HAVE BEEN ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS IN PAST. DR. HANNAH SPOKE FOR ONE HOUR, AND ENGAGED IN DIALOGUE FOR FORTY-FIVE MINUTES. HIGHPOINTS ARE SUMMARIZED BELOW.

2. ON RANK OF CHIEF OF SECRETARIAT FOR WORLD FOOD COUNCIL, NETHERLANDS REPRESENTATIVE SAID HE AND OTHER DRAFTERS OF PERTINENT RESOLUTION OF WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE, WITH WHOM HE HAD CHECKED RECENTLY HELD CONCEPT THAT WORLD FOOD COUNCIL PRESIDENT, OF MINISTERIAL RANK, WOULD CONDUCT DEALINGS WITH OTHER AGENCIES, AND SECRETARIAT WOULD BE MERELY SERVICING UNIT. HANNAH SUPPORTED UN SYG WALDHEIM'S VIEW THAT GREAT SUCCESS OF WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE PASSED ON TO WORLD FOOD COUNCIL GREAT RESPONSIBILITIES WHICH REQUIRE SECRETARIAT CHIEF OF HIGHEST RANK. HE ADDED THAT SUCH RANK IS NECESSARY FOR THAT OFFICIAL TO DEAL WITH OTHER AGENCIES, AND THAT MANY UN OFFICIALS HOLD THAT RANK, INCLUDING EXECUTIVE-DIRECTOR OF WORLD FOOD PROGRAM. BRITISH REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTED THAT THERE ARE TOO MANY UN OFFICIALS AT DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL RANK. AUSTRALIAN REPRESENTATIVE SAID HE HAD REPORTED DR. HANNAH'S VIEWS TO HIS GOVERNMENT, AND AUSTRALIA REMAINED OF VIEW THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL RANK OR LOWER WAS APPROPRIATE.

3. ON SIZE OF SECRETARIAT, DR. HANNAH SAID ALL HAD BEEN OF VIEW THAT ITS SIZE SHOULD BE MINIMAL. HE LISTED AS PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS A DEPUTY, AN ASSISTANT, AN FAO MAN, AND THREE "SUBJECT" OFFICERS. UNDER QUESTIONING, HE SAID THE THREE WOULD DIVIDE UP NINE FIELDS LISTED IN WORLD FOOD COUNCIL RESOLUTION ON BASIS OF COMMON CHARACTERISTICS AND EXPERIENCE OF INDIVIDUAL. AZIZ HAS BEEN SUGGESTED AS FAO MAN AND IS TO NOMINATE ANOTHER "SUBJECT" OFFICER.

4. IN DISCUSSION OF CONSULTATIVE MEETING OF MEMBERS OF WORLD FOOD COUNCIL SCHEDULED IN NEW YORK FOR FEBRUARY 24-25, DR. HANNAH DENIED THERE WERE PLANS TO SELECT A CHAIRMAN FOR THE COUNCIL--UNDER TERMS OF THE RESOLUTION THIS WOULD BE DONE IN THE FIRST COUNCIL SESSION. AGENDA IDEAS WOULD BE DEVELOPED BY THE SECRETARIAT, CONSULTATIVE MEETINGS OF UN AGENCIES, AND THE FEBRUARY 24 MEETING OF THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL MEMBERS, BUT THESE
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WOULD BE ONLY SUGGESTIONS AND THE COUNCIL WOULD DETERMINE ITS OWN AGENDA. HE EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF FOCUSING AGENDA ON CRITICAL PROBLEMS AND DISPENSING WITH ROUTINE REPORTS. ALTHOUGH HE EXPRESSED VIEW THAT COUNCIL SHOULD MEET FROM 2 TO 4 TIMES PER YEAR, HE SAID THIS WAS FOR COUNCIL TO DETERMINE. AUSTRALIAN REPRESENTATIVE SAID HIS GOVERNMENT BELIEVED CONSULTATIVE MEETING OF WORLD FOOD COUNCIL MEMBERS SHOULD BE HELD IN ROME AROUND TIME OF FAO COUNCIL. HANNAH SAID THERE ARE MORE MEMBERS REPRESENTED IN NEW YORK AND HE BELIEVED IT IS WISE TO HOLD MEETING THERE.

5. ON TIME OF FIRST SESSION OF WORLD FOOD COUNCIL, DR. HANNAH SAID CIRCUMSTANCES FORCED IT TO BE SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 23. THERE IS NO LONGER TIME TO PREPARE PAPERS AND DISSEMINATE THEM FOR MAY MEETING. ADJUSTING TO SCHEDULED FAO MEETINGS AND SETTING IT AFTER FAO COUNCIL FIXES DATE OF JUNE 23.

6. ON INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, DR. HANNAH SAID THAT AFTER CONSULTING WITH FORMER WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE SECRETARY-GENERAL MAREI ABOUT HIS TALKS WITH OPEC COUNTRIES, CHAIRMAN OF ARAB LEAGUE AND HEAD OF DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE CORPORATION, HE HAD CAUSE TO BELIEVE THAT ONLY HOPE LIES IN DIALOGUE BETWEEN OPEC AND DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, WITH OPEC INITIATING PROPOSALS. HE EXPLAINED THAT OPEC COUNTRIES CONSIDER HIGH-INTEREST LOANS TO BE AID, AND MIGHT WELL EXPECT DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO CONTRIBUTE TO FUND. SUCH A PROPOSAL WOULD NOT BE WELL RECEIVED IF INITIATED BY DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, WHILE IT MIGHT BE ACCEPTABLE IF INITIATED BY OPEC COUNTRIES AND ACCEPTED BY DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. DR. HANNAH SAID FORTHCOMING U.S. PARTICIPATION IN FOOD AID IS ESSENTIAL TO PROGRESS ON FOOD PROBLEM. ON DEALINGS WITH OPEC, HE SUGGESTED NETHERLANDS AND AUSTRALIA HAD PARTICULAR RESPONSIBILITIES AS ONLY DEVELOPED -COUNTRY SPONSORS OF RESOLUTION. NETHERLAND REPRESENTATIVE POINTED OUT ALL PARTICIPANTS EXCEPT FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY HAD INDICATED SUPPORT FOR RESOLUTION. VOLPE

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